

## Message Text

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62

ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OES-03 SS-15 L-03 SSO-00 EB-07 INR-07

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DRAFTED BY NEA/ARP:COCECIL:CEJ  
APPROVED BY NEA/ARP:FMDICKMAN  
OES/SCI/BMP:ARICHMOND  
E:RPOATS (INFO)  
S/S:FORTIZ

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O 240147Z JAN 76  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 018104

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TGEN, SA

SUBJECT: PROPOSED SANCST JEC PROJECT AGREEMENT

REFS: (1) TREASURY OSAA 28; (2) HORAN-DICKMAN LTR, 8/9/75;  
(3) DICKMAN-HORAN LTR, JULY 15, 1975

1. WE HOPE EMBASSY HAS BY NOW RECEIVED FROM KLETTE COMPLETE COPY OF PROPOSED SANCST DRAFT AGREEMENT, INCLUDING APPENDICES A,B, AND C, WORK PLAN II, AND ANNEXES, WHICH KLETTE CARRIED WITH HIM FROM WASHINGTON.

2. NEA/ARP HAS REVIEWED PROPOSAL AND IS CONCERNED OVER SCOPE OF ACTIVITY ENVISAGED, AND ABILITY OF SAG TO STAFF WHAT IS ESSENTIALLY A COORDINATING AND ADMINISTRATIVE BODY WITHOUT DRAWING NEEDED SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL TALENT FROM UNIVERSITIES AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS. OUR CONCERNS  
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ALSO REST PARTLY ON INABILITY OF NSF OR TREASURY TO GIVE

GOOD ANSWER TO QUESTION OF WHAT SAUDI INSTITUTIONS ARE, ON THEIR SIDE, PROVIDING IMPETUS TO CREATION OF SANCST? ONLY TWO NAMES HAVE EMERGED IN THIS REGARD: YUSUF AL-TURKI AND DR. RIDA OBEID, BOTH OF UNIVERSITY OF RIYADH. (LATTER WAS APPARENTLY HEAD OF SAG WORKING GROUP OF THREE WHICH EARLIER PARTICIPATED IN TALKS WITH JEC REPRESENTATIVES.) NSF AND TREASURY SEEM UNSURE TO WHAT DEGREE THE UNIVERSITY

AND OTHER SAG INSTITUTIONS ARE COMMITTED TO PROJECT. SINCE SANCST IS ENVISIONED AS AN INDEPENDENT ORGANIZATION FREE OF UNIVERSITY OR OTHER MINISTERIAL CONTROL, WE WONDER TO WHAT DEGREE MANPOWER REQUIRED ON SAUDI SIDE WILL BE FORTHCOMING.

3. IT IS TREASURY OFFICE OF SAUDI AFFAIRS VIEW THAT IN FACT NONE OF THE PROJECTS PROPOSED IN DRAFT AGREEMENT REQUIRE CREATION OF SANCST, BUT THIS OVERLOOKS POINT THAT IT IS WITH SANCST THAT AGREEMENT IS SUPPOSED TO BE CONCLUDED. AS AN ALTERNATIVE, SHOULD WE NOT ATTEMPT TO FOCUS ON SMALL PROJECTS, CARRIED OUT ENTIRELY BY AMERICAN PERSONNEL, THAT WOULD ASSIST THE SAG IN IMPROVING ITS TEACHING FACILITIES AND DEVELOPING DOMESTIC INFORMATION RESOURCES, EITHER WITHIN EXISTING UNIVERSITIES OR GOVERNMENT MINISTRIES. IN OUR VIEW, EMPHASIS SHOULD BE ON FILLING FUNDAMENTAL NEEDS IN SIMPLE, UNCOMPLICATED WAYS, POSTPONING POSSIBLY OVER-AMBITIOUS ATTEMPTS TO COMPUTERIZE OR MECHANIZE VARIOUS FACILITIES UNTIL A LATER DATE. IN VIEW OF OUR DESIRE TO DEMONSTRATE TO SAG TANGIBLE RESULTS OF JEC COOPERATION, WE ALSO WONDER IF "TASK I", THE SCIENTIFIC RESOURCES INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS, IS THE BEST WAY TO BEGIN OUR ACTIVITIES IN SCIENTIFIC FIELD; SOME TASKS SUGGESTED UNDER "TASK II: INITIAL COOPERATIVE SCIENCE PROJECTS" WOULD SEEM A BETTER WAY TO INITIATE ACTIVITIES.

4. IS THERE NOT SOME OTHER INSTITUTION, SUCH AS THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, WHICH WOULD BE A MORE APPROPRIATE PARTY TO PROPOSED AGREEMENT RATHER THAN THE AT-PRESENT NON-EXISTANT SANCST?

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5. TREASURY IS PRESSING FOR DEPT'S APPROVAL OF PROPOSED PROJECT AGREEMENT. WE APOLOGIZE FOR URGENCY BUT WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S VIEWS ON VARIOUS QUESTIONS RAISED AND ANY PROPOSALS EMBASSY WOULD CARE TO SUGGEST TOWARD RE-CASTING PROPOSED AGREEMENT, PERHAPS ALONG LINES OF ALLOWING NSF TO PLACE A TEAM OF SCIENTIFIC EDUCATIONAL CONSULTANTS IN SAUDI ARABIA TO CARRY OUT SOME TANGIBLE PROJECTS WHICH WOULD MAKE MINIMAL DEMANDS ON SAUDI

MANPOWER. SISCO

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## Message Attributes

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